

Makeda Thomas Announces “Eat Little and Live Long” with 16 Dance Artists Performances run Saturday, 5 June through Saturday, 4 September

Brooklyn, NY - 1 June 2021 - Artistic Director and Choreographer Makeda Thomas continues to support dance artists of the Caribbean and its Diasporas through exciting projects around the globe. Her newest project is a Backyard Performance Series for which she’s invited 16 dance artists to her home in Flatbush, Brooklyn. Fana Fraser, J. Bouey, Thomas DeFrantz, mx oops, Shamar Watt, Brotherhood Dance, Chris Walker, Andre Zachery, Michelle Gibson, Jean Appolon, Obika Dance, Pagwah Mas, and Jade Charon are among the performers. “Eat Little and Live Long” begins Saturday, 5 June and ends on Saturday, 4 September 2021. Tickets are \$45 including the performance and meal, and must be purchased online at www.makedathomas.org.

“Eat Little and Live Long” - the title of the program and menu comes out of Caribbean culture and “the yard” as both home and as a focal point for community gathering, culture-raising, and social development. Nearly all of the invited artists have attended Thomas’ Trinidad-based Dance and Performance Institute, which has engaged over 800 dance artists, scholars, and teachers through its programs in Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and New York. “And so”, Thomas says, “this program is many things: an iteration of New Waves! Institute - where I’ve been every summer for the last decade, a summer-long version of my “Eat Little and Live Long” project, and a housewarming of sorts as I celebrate being in NYC.”

““Eat Little and Live Long” is a gathering that merges food, dance, and storytelling; an opportunity to engage with artists and supporters of my work; a way to share and to practice; to make good on the ancestral knowledge to transform stories of loss into tales of togetherness. Food is a continued part of my artistic practice. It has been at the center of the Institute’s development. There is a recipe for my late Aunty Girly’s Fish Pelau in my Master’s dissertation called “How to Take Night and Make Day” - a recipe for food that is delicious and - and, as per the title - tied to the wisdom of my ancestors.” The project was presented by the Delaware Museum of Art in August 2019. The program for this iteration is as follows:

Saturday, 5 June 2021 at 7pm

J. Bouey | *Chiron in Leo*

Chiron in Leo, a short film, follows Chiron through Brooklyn after they get up from a depression nap to manage their anxiety. On this walk, Chiron dances through memories and stories they share with us that emerge from deep within their psyche.

Saturday, 12 June 2021 at 6pm

Brotherhood Dance | *Greens-N-Bread*

In this dance theater experience, we laugh and love over the stories of our familial engagement with greens and bread.

Saturday, 19 June 2021 at 6pm

Shamar Watt | *Dawning of the Suns*

“Dawning of the Suns” explores the transmutation of the revivalist, through the lens of a black Berghain shrine.

Saturday, 26 June 2021 at 6pm

Fana Fraser | *Love, V*

"Love, V" is a queer Caribbean femmehood coming of age story. Timed in a heavenly subterranean fantasy paradise where dreams become reality for an extended present moment, Love, V is a multi-act solo performance.

Saturday, 3 July 2021 at 6pm

Andre Zachery Renegade Performance Group | *Salt*

"Salt" is an excerpt from a current work-in-development collaboration between interdisciplinary choreographer André M. Zachery and interdisciplinary sound/media artist Sadah Espii Proctor entitled "Against Gravity: Flying Afrikans and Other Urban Legends". This section is named and inspired by a novel of the same name by Trinidadian writer Earl Lovelace, the tale of "Igbo Landing" and the legend of "the people who could fly".

Saturday, 10 July 2021 at 6pm

mx oops + Thomas DeFrantz

Saturday, 17 July 2021 at 5pm

Jade Charon | *Gold* + Obika Dance | *Swamp Body*

Inspired by the death of Breonna Taylor and the Global pandemic, "Gold" is an interdisciplinary film and dance solo exploring the makings of a Black superheroine.

"Swamp Body" is an embodied installation and performance explores possibilities for visceral risk-taking, art making, and preparedness for freedom. Heavily inspired by South Florida's Saltwater Railroad, the Seminole War, and the connectedness of indigenous people and black fugitive in maroon societies in the global south.

Saturday, 31 July 2021 at 6pm

Chris Walker + Futurpointe | *Seaweed King* + *Rent-A-Tile*

"Seaweed King" is a solo dance work developed in collaboration with Laura Anderson Barbata about the human impact on the environment told through the mas character "Seaweed King." "Rent-A-Tile" is a series-long performance installation and invitation for partners to dance onstage together, to "their song". A meditation on Black Love. Performed by Guy Thorne and N'Jelle Gage.

Saturday, 28 August 2021 at 6pm

Jean Appolon +

Saturday, 4 September 2021 at 4pm

Michelle Gibson + Pagwah Mas | *JouvayFest Collective*

New Orleans' own Michelle Gibson roots her Second Line Aesthetic in the gospel of the culture and in the soil of West and Central Africa. Nah, let's take it to the streets!

"Eat Little and Live Long" is being co-produced by MGMT ARTS, Chris Walker, UW Madison School of Education Impact 2030 Fellow, The Wood Shed Dance Online Platform, and DaCoJo Productions.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

As this is an event that is held for the primary purpose of watching a performance, it must follow the Theaters and Performance Venues Guidance as found here: **INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE PERFORMING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY** and DOH's "Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency":

Masks are mandatory.

Patrons must adhere to social distancing requirements

TICKETING

All tickets will be electronic/mobile-only and are available at www.makedathomas.org. There will be no tickets available to purchase onsite.

ABOUT MAKEDA THOMAS

MAKEDA THOMAS is a New York/Port of Spain based dance artist and founding director of the Dance and Performance Institute, Trinidad and Tobago, which marked its 10th Anniversary in 2020. Interdisciplinary in nature, her artistic practice, scholarship and teaching are situated at the intersection of performance practice, diaspora theory, dance studies, ethnography and black feminisms. She has presented intermedia performances in relation to her scholarship internationally, including at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York Live Arts, HARLEM Stage/Aaron Davis Hall, Teatro Africa, the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, CCA7, and Mexico's Teatro de la Ciudad, with awards from Creative Capital, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, and 651 ARTS, among others. Thomas' work is published in "Curating Live Arts: Critical Perspectives, Essays, and Conversations on Theory and Practice", "My Voice, My Practice: Black Dance", and Small Axe: A Caribbean Platform for Criticism. Thomas serves on the founding Board of the Collegium for African Diasporic Dance.

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